THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) As per information given by State Government, during 1987-88 in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh 18359 beneficiaries were assisted under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Of them, 215 were small farmers and 9323 were marginal farmers. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes comprised 55 per cent of the beneficiaries while the balance 45 per cent were other backward classes including the economically backward. Rs. 224.81 lakhs were utilised as subsidy of which Rs. 124.10 lakhs were utilised in favour of small and marginal farmers.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Coverage given to Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and M.Ps. of Telugu Desham Party

2713. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the coverage given by Hyderabad Doordarshan Kendra to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Telugu Desham Party Members of Parliament during the last three years;

(b) the coverage given by the said Kendra to the Prime Minister, Central Ministers and Congress Members of Parliament during the same period; and

(c) whether there is a gap in the coverage and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The non-visual/visual coverage (duration in seconds) which have been given by Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad to the Prime Minister, Central Ministers, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Ministers of Andhra Pradesh Government, Congress M.Ps. and Telugu Desham Party M.Ps. for the last 3 years is given in the enclosed annexure. (See Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No 120)

(c) No, Sir.

Cultivation of oilpalm in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2714. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 128 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th November, 1988 and state:

(a) The estimated land which is at present under cultivation/harvesting for oilpalm gardens;

(b) whether it is a fact that in Andaman and Nicobar Islands where 86 per cent of land is under forest, nearly 50,000 acres of land is ready for cultivation of palmoil but due to ecological situation, it has been stopped and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue instructions for the cultivation of oilpam in Andaman Nicobar Islands and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) At present, a total area of 5298 ha. has been brought under commercial cultivation of oilpalm in the country. In Andaman & Nicobar Islands 1593 ha. has been brought under oilpalm cultivation.

(b) and (c) A multi- disciplinary team was constituted in 1985 by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and assessed the ecological impact of oilpalm plantation. The team has made observations that (i) there is evidence that soil degradation has occurred in the plantation areas and would accentuate in future, (ii) there is no proper record of disease and pests of oilpalm plantation and (iii) the amount of labour needed for expanding the plantation is considerable. Decision of that Ministry in 1986-87 was to discontinue expansion of oilpalm in the Islands in order to preserve the ecology.